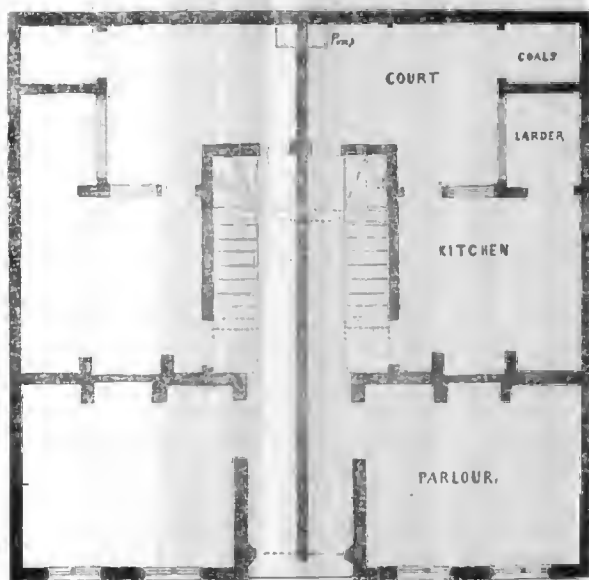




ELEVATION OF A DOUBLE COTTAGE.

(From a Correspondent.)



Ground Plan.

"CLASSIC NOT CHRISTIAN."

Ralpho.

"Classic, national!
Mere human creature—cobwebs all;
They are idolatrous, and Pagan,
Not less than worshipping of Dagon."
Hudibras, Canto 1.

Sir,—Next to the self-consciousness of an honest endeavour to arrive at the truth, I value the opinion of disinterested and competent judges; it was, therefore, with no small pleasure that I read your leading article in No. 35. I trust, like yourself, that I have no unreasonable prejudice for the old or the new, as such; but that I value what is good wherever I find it, irrespective of its age or its author. I must also acknowledge the justice and value of your

remarks upon the tone of conducting a controversy. I believe it is not often I offend on this point; but there are bounds to every one's patience—there are cases where "difficile est salutaris acribitur."

Few, perhaps, have a greater value for the Gothic architecture of England than myself. Few feel its grandeur and beauty more. Few reverence more

—"the face of those tall piles,
Whose ancient pillars rear their marble heads
To bear aloft the arch'd and pond'rous roof!"

and for that very reason I trust I may be excused the expression of indignation at the quacks and schoolmasters, who make a pretended admiration of the beauty of these buildings a cover for cant and jargon. When, therefore, Pseudo-Ecclesiologists, woodcutters, and copper-scratchers dictate, Sir, to you, to

me, and to the whole profession; nay, more, when they abuse all other men's works, and all styles but their own; when they rich-mane the monuments of classic antiquity, and revile its students, I trust you will allow that some little warmth of expression may be tolerated. He who professes to admire Theocritus, but shows his folly by abusing Homer and Æschylus; he who praises Chaucer and Spenser, deserves the indignation of every true lover of poetry, if he sneers at the classic majesty of Milton.

Mr. G. R. Lewis's last letter, however, is of that extraordinary character, and his tone is so extremely peculiar, that there is something unpleasant in handling and analyzing it. A man who can coolly write that "churches designed in his (Vitruvius's) style would be buildings in Vitruvius's